

REMARKS

The application, cited references, and Examiner's comments have been thoroughly reviewed in light of that which is deemed to comprise the instant invention. The application, as now presented, is believed to be in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

The Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) is misplaced. The claims in issue are process claims. The steps set forth in the claims are clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawings and discussed within the specification. The step of "developing three dimensional models of tire tread portions" is evidenced at 136 in the drawings, "installing sipes into models" is evidenced at 150, "generating foundry castings from the siped models" at 160, and "undercut ribs formed in tire tread for securing said sipes" at 144, 150. It is respectfully presented that the claimed steps are evidenced by the drawings.

The Examiner has also complained that Fig. 1 is confusing and that clarification is required as to how the pitches of Fig. 2 are cut out of Fig. 1. In that regard, it is respectfully presented that the process is clearly described in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification. The pitches 12 are existent between separator blocks 14 in the casting 10. The open areas between the blocks 14 allow accesses to the pitches 12 such that appropriate cutting tools may enter to cut the pitches 12 along the cut lines 16 at the intersection between the blocks 14 and the pitches 12. The individual pitches that are so removed are designated as pitches 18, and are shown in Fig. 2. Moreover, the fact that the individual pitches 18 are obtained by cutting the pitches 12 along the cut lines 16 is evidenced by the fact that the vertical sides 20 of the pitches 18 are defined by the cut lines 16, as set forth in the specification. It is respectfully presented that no further clarification is necessary and that one skilled in the art would readily appreciate how the individual pitches 18 are formed by cutting the pitches 12 from the casting 10.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2, contending that the specification does not enable the claimed "ventless tire mold." As a point of fact, when the entire application is read, it is readily apparent that the term "ventless" is used in the context of distinguishing from conventional vented

molds, where discrete vents are machined into the mold. No such discrete vents are required in accordance with the instant invention - - hence the term "ventless." A person skilled in the art, reading the specification in view of the background art presented therein, would readily appreciate what is intended by the term "ventless mold" in the context of the instant application. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 with respect to the recitation of "installing sipes." The Examiner contends that a sipe is a groove, and it is unclear how a groove is installed. In fact, in the context of a tire, a sipe is, in fact, a very narrow groove, slit or channel. In the context of tire molds, to which this application pertains, a sipe is the metal strip, rib or the like used to form the sipe in the tire. One reading the claims of the instant application, particularly if the same are considered in view of the specification, would readily appreciate the difference.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 5 as being anticipated by Galli et al. However, Galli is directed to the very prior art that the instant invention seeks to improve upon. Galli teaches the fabrication of cores, as treated extensively in the instant application with respect to the prior art. Galli does not teach the fabrication and joinder in a mold of individual pitch profiles. The elements 10-12 of Galli are not pitch profiles. Moreover, the ribs 12a do not form sipes, nor does Galli suggest that they do. At the bottom line, Galli teaches the fabrication and interconnection of cores, not pitch profiles, to obtain a tire mold configuration as is well known in the art. There is no teaching or suggesting of the interesting of individual pitch profiles to form a "ventless" mold.

The Examiner's rejection of the claims under Applicant's Admitted Prior Art [AAPA] in paragraph 10 of the Office Action is most strongly traversed. The AAPA does not employ, teach, or suggest the use of individual pitch profiles cut from foundry casings to form a mold. Absent that teaching or suggestion, there can be no anticipation of the instant claims.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the combination of Galli and AAPA is traversed for the reasons presented above with respect

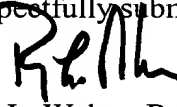
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to both Galli and AAPA individually. Since the prior art fails to teach or suggest the use of individual pitch profiles cut from foundry castings to form a mold by nesting interengagement, there is no support for an obviousness rejection.

Every effort has been made to fully and completely respond to the Office Action. In light of the foregoing, favorable action on this case is believed to be in order and an action to that end is most earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner deem a telephonic conference to be beneficial in resolving any matters, the same would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted



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Claim as Amended

- 1 5. (Amended) A method for making a ventless tire mold, comprising:
- 2 (a) developing three dimensional models of tire tread portions;
- 3 (b) installing sipes into the models;
- 4 (c) generating foundry castings from the [siped] models having the sipes installed;
- 5 (d) preparing individual pitch profiles from said foundry castings; and
- 6 (e) assembling a mold by nestingly interconnecting a plurality of said prepared
- 7 individual pitch profiles.